WHIRRAKEE

September 2004

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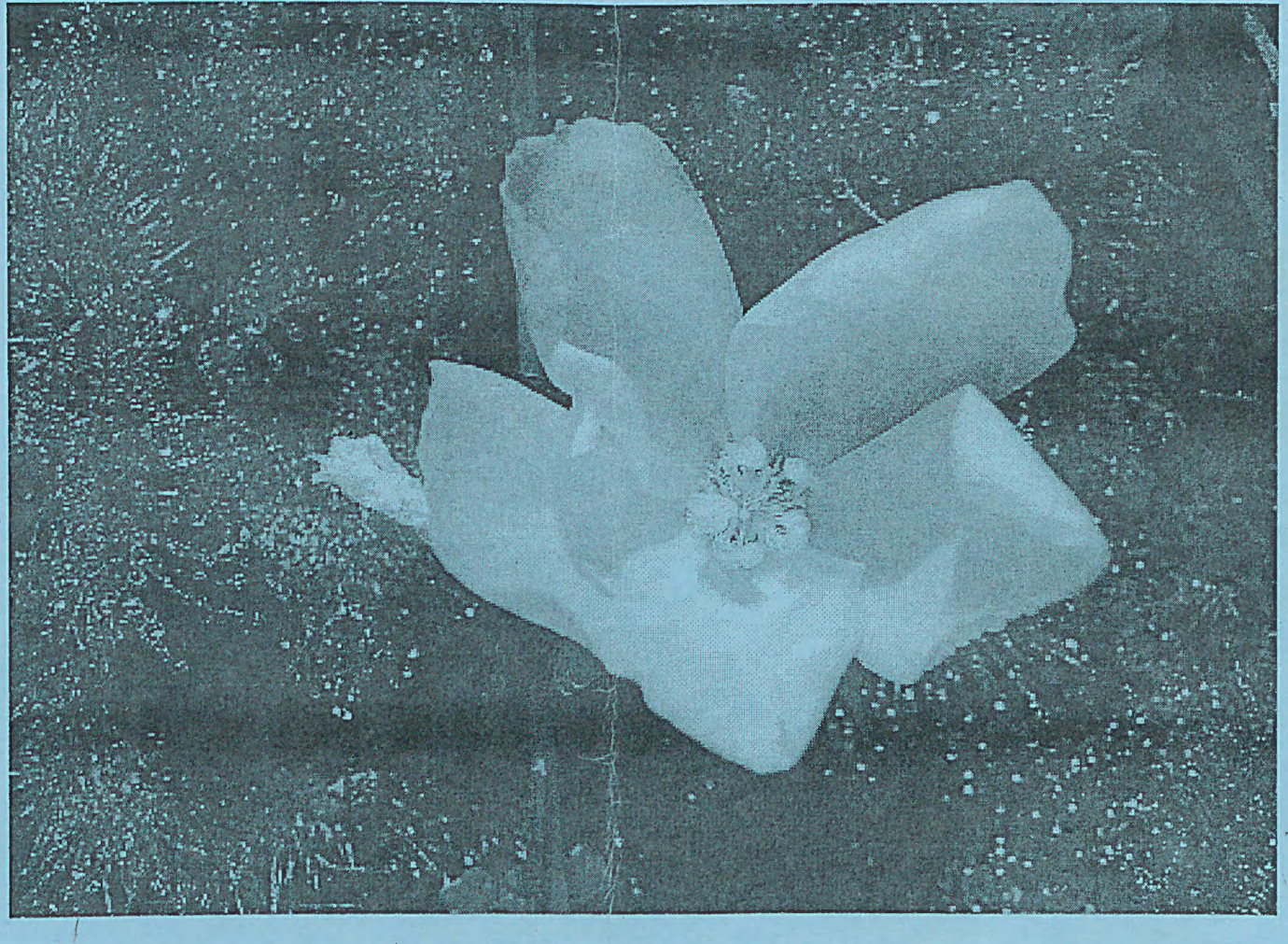

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE BENDIGO FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.
Address for correspondence: PO Box 396, Bendigo 3552
ISSN 0812-423X

Office Bearers for 2003 - 2004

President	Matthew Comer	46 Railway Place, Goornong	5432 2380
Senior Vice President	Stuart Fraser	12 Bambara Close, Bendigo	
Junior Vice President	vacant		
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Librarian	Diana Collier	31 Milroy Street, Bendigo	5443 0137
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Whirrakee contact	Sabine Wilkens	82 Somerville Street, Bendigo e-mail: s.wilkens@latrobe.edu.au	5443 2797

Membership of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club is open to all those interested in Natural History. The subscription rates are: Single $34; Family $40; Concession: Single $28.50; Family $34. *Whirrakee* subscription only is $34.

General meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. The venue for General meetings is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square. The invited speaker at general meetings starts at 8:00pm and meetings conclude with supper.
If a workshop is held prior to the meeting, it will be advertised and it usually starts at 7.00pm.
The Annual Meeting is held in September.

Committee meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm. Members of the Committee are the Office Bearer listed above and the following members: Rob Moors (ex officio), Lyn Hamilton, Maurie Lewis, Glenise Moors, Bob Ruddick, and there are 4 vacancies.

Excursions Excursions are conducted irregularly and are advertised on the diary page of the *Whirrakee*. The assembly point for excursions is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, unless otherwise specified. In addition to local excursions, campouts are held several times each year, usually coinciding with long weekends or holiday periods.

The Bendigo Field Naturalists Club has one active group that meets regularly (the Fauna Study Group) and other groups that meet at irregular intervals.

Fauna Study Group: meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building.

Chairman: John Burtonclay, Fadersons Lane, Mandurang (5439 5710)
Secretary: Bill Holsworth, 13 Nabilla Crs., Bendigo (5443 4063)
Equipment Officer: Maurie Lewis (0407 427179)

Bird Observers Group: This group has field excursions and the occasional lecture evening. Please consult the *Whirrakee* for details. Special bird observations should be reported to Anne Bridley 5449 3479.
To propose meetings or excursions please contact Kerrie Norris 5447 8017.

Front Cover Photographer: Liz Martin
Are flowers coming out later this year? At the time of printing, apart from wattles and a range of orchids, Scented Sundew *(Drosera whittakeri)* was out in full bloom in Mandurang where this one was photographed, but not many other plants.
Does anybody know what pollinates the local sundews? The flower is very showy so they are probably not wind-pollinated, there does not seem to be a large reservoir for nectar to make it worthwhile for birds. The blossom of this species is fairly large so perhaps quite safe for insects to land on, but if any visitor takes one wrong step...disaster. I guess it would not be in the interest of the plant to eat its own pollinators, but how does it work?

WHIRRAKEE

Monthly Newsletter of the Bendigo Field Naturalist Club
Vol. 25, No.8, September 2004
Whirrakee takes its name from the Whirrakee Wattle (*Acacia williamsonii*) which is virtually endemic to the Bendigo region

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Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the information they use and also for any opinions expressed in their articles.
Contributions will be included as soon as possible after they are received, although articles received more than one week after the monthly General Meeting will probably be too late for inclusion in the next issue of *Whirrakee*.
Articles in *Whirrakee* may be reproduced, but permission should be obtained from the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club, and acknowledgment should be given to the author and the Club. Some back issues are still available on request.

Editor's note
Just look at this Table of Contents!....A very pleasing issue in terms of number and diversity of contributions, a perfect issue to lead up to the Annual General Meeting where we normally take stock of what has been achieved in the previous year. Even though nominations for office bearers and committee members have officially closed, any further nominations are still welcome on the night. We particularly encourage new members and/or younger members to get involved in the club, while there is still some life left in us older members (Rod's words), perhaps in the first instance simply to join the committee to see how things work.

From the president...

By Matthew Comer

Annual General Meeting - September

Our club's Annual General Meeting is on Wednesday September 8th at 7.30pm. Nominations have been received for many of the office bearer positions. Of course, more nominations are welcome and will be accepted on the night. We do still need people to join the committee, so please consider if you could contribute to the club in this role.

Speaker for the night

Chris Sawyer has worked at a state of California tree nursery for over 20 years. The nursery supplies plants for various government projects including a program for 18 - 23 year olds similar to our green corps program. The organisation's mission statement is: to protect and enhance the state's natural resources. Chris will be visiting Australia during September and has agreed to speak to the club about his work. His friend, Mark Dwyer, who is the Bendigo Region Coordinator of Conservation Volunteers Australia, will introduce Chris and will also outline current work being undertaken by Conservation Volunteers Australia in our region.

News from the Club Garden

The latest work at the garden was carried out on Saturday 7th August, seven people attended. More weeds were removed and another load of mulch was spread over remaining parts of the garden that needed it. It was a successful morning's work.

With the wildflower show coming on in September, we need to have another working bee to make the garden look its best. Our working bees have been on the first Saturday of the month but in September, this would coincide with the launch of 'Spring in the Bendigo Bush' on Saturday 4th September. Instead **we will meet the following Saturday (11th September) at 9am.** All welcome.

Birdwatching at "Newhaven Station"

by Tony Morris

In May of this year, my wife Pat and I visited this 2,600 square kilometre property which lies some 250 kilometres northwest of Alice Springs and which was purchased several years back by Birds Australia. The grazier who had previously owned the property for many years had not run stock on one quarter of the holding and had kept the stocking rate low on the rest.

Birds Australia was very fortunate to have purchased this property. It was quite clearly more heavily vegetated than the surrounding country, the main trees being Mulga, Beefwood, Bloodwood, Ghost Gums and Black Gidgee and the understorey Soft Spinifex, Forkleafed Hakea and Holly Grevillea. There was a riot of blossom.

While most of the country is flat, there are rocky ridges quite close to the main campsite and homestead. From on top we could see Mts. Cockburn and Stanley way out to the west and Mount Liebig to the southeast. At dusk the eastern horizon showed a very beautiful pink and blue band.

We saw waves of Zebra and Painted Finches and Diamond Doves flying in to drink at rock pools in a small gorge to the north of the homestead. Painted Finches flew around us, apparently attracted by our red clothing.

There is a type of lizard which is very common and capable of remarkable speed for its size. I have a feeling that this lizard must form part of the diet of the many small raptors which floated in the sky.

We saw Thorny Devils and solved the puzzle of strange tracks in the sand. Their very strong brown and yellow markings and habit of "freezing" with head and tail raised, make them look exactly like a low, flat, succulent plant called pigweed.

We drove out to the northern end of Lake Bennett and walked out onto the many square kilometres of salt crust. Many camel, dingo and fox tracks were clearly visible in that crust.

We saw only one dingo. It was waiting patiently on a cattle loading ramp down at Camel Bore. It followed us for hundreds of meters as we walked, believing in vain that we would feed it. As we chugged off in our truck it settled in behind us at a trot.

In dry weather the property can be accessed by 2WD vehicle with normal underbody clearance but some sections of the extensive internal road network are deep, loose sand and definitely 4WD/high ground clearance/low gear terrain. While we were completely self supporting, it was reassuring to see a 3,000 litre tank of distillate and ten kilolitre tank full of good bore water. There is also a phone at the ranger station (two volunteer rangers, Kerrie and Ted) and managers (Ian and Nikki)
The rangers hand out notes and maps and are clearly people who have spent much time out in the mulga.

Further devlopments from the wildlife underpass study conducted by Rod Absom and Ruth Lawrence

by Sabine Wilkens

Here are some additional comments that Rod and Ruth mentioned in their talk and which were not in the publication that was reproduced in the Whirrakee last month.

So what happened after the Wildlife Underpass study was completed?
Rod and Ruth were invited to present their findings at an international conference on Ecology and Transportation in New York in August and their final report was submitted to VicRoads in September 2003.
Following this, VicRoads engaged the Centre for Sustainable Communities (at LaTrobe University, Bendigo) who, in turn, engaged Rod and Ruth. to develop a 'Habitat Management Plan Framework' for the Ravenswood section of the Calder Highway which is under construction at present.
This framework needs to incorporate appropriate legislation concerning land tenure, wildlife etc, it also needs to include landscape assessments, crossing structures for animals and maintenance or re-establishment of linkages with adjacent wildlife habitat areas.
In addition, it needs to consider how to minimise impact on wildlife during the planning, construction and post-construction phase. One example Rod mentioned on the night is the enhancement of the Bullock Creek corridor which is a likely outcome of this phase of highway construction.
Any offset works (e.g. Planting or habitat enhancement in compensation for destruction of current habitat) must be based on the 'Habitat Hectares' assessment. An example of this might be the following: If a large tree needs to be taken out during construction, the question that must be posed is, what might replace this lost habitat? Perhaps ten newly planted trees ? or does some bushland with large trees needs to be purchased to offset the loss? As a rule, the offset works will be greater than the original impact.

Another outcome of the study was a six week community program that was run in conjunction with Macedon Primary School grade 5 and 6 students. This program which also involved parents and the rest of the community, was meant to foster awareness of animal habitat issues and culminated in an art exhibition 'Bats, Scats and Bridges'.

These are all very positive outcomes and can only lead to bigger and better things!

August General Meeting
'Threatened Flora in the North-West'

by Deanna Marshall and Sabine Wilkens

This talk was prepared by the DSE Threatened Flora team (Miles Geldard, Geoff Nevill, Deanna Marshall and Ben Thomas) and Jenni Collier (NCCMA) and presented by Deanna Marshall, the senior flora officer at DSE.

There are many threatened plant species in Australia, these range from nationally significant to state and regionally significant. Some attract funding to help their recovery, others don't. At present, the selection process for a threatened species to be funded is based on nominations under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act (FFG Act) at the State level, and nominations under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act) at the Federal level. Once a plant is nominated for listing under either of these acts it goes through a lengthy process as to wether it is accepted or not.

This year, DSE obtained funding through the Regional Catchment Investment Program (RCIP) for 23 plant species listed as nationally threatened under the EPBC Act.. There is no funding for state threatened species. Our State Government is not funding recovery actions for state threatened species.

In Bendigo, each team member of the threatened flora staff is given a number of plants to look after and ensure the recovery plan actions associated with that species are acted upon. This may involve monitoring populations, collecting seeds, fencing known populations if necessary, speaking to land-holders about conserving patches with known populations, growing plants in cultivation for re-introductions into the wild, trying to work out the best conditions for germination for some species, organising ecological burns as required etc.

The following paragraphs introduce the project officers and which species they are undertaking recovery plan actions on. Please feel free to contact them if you have any queries, would like to be involved or have any further information to offer. We have illustrations for all these plants but space in this edition was insufficient to fit them in this time.

Geoff Nevill (DSE 5430 4361)
Caladenia audasii - McIvor Spider-orchid
Caladenia concolor - Crimson Spider-orchid
Caladenia cruciformis - Red-cross Spider-orchid
C. sp. aff. *fragrantissima* - Bendigo Spider-orchid
C. sp. aff. *venusta* (Stuart Mill) - Stuart Mill Spider-orchid
Caladenia xanthochila - Yellow-lip Spider-orchid
Prasophyllum sp. (Nagambie) - no common name
Pterostylis despectans - Lowly Greenhood
Thelymitra mackibbinii - Brilliant Sun-orchid
Euphrasia collina subsp. *muelleri* - Purple Eyebright

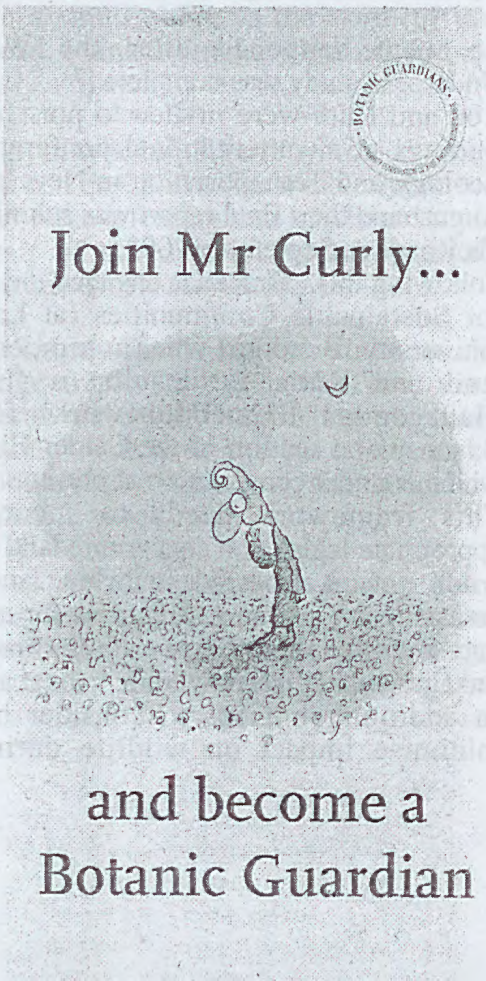
Miles Geldard (DSE 5430 4591)
Cullen parvum - Small Scurf-pea
Lepidium monoplocoides - Winged Peppercress
Myriophyllum porcatum - Ridged Water-milfoil
Sclerolaena napiformis - Turnip Copperburr
Senecio behrianus - Stiff Groundsel
Swainsona murrayana - Slender Darling-pea
Swainsona plagiotropis - Red Swainson-pea

Ben Thomas (DSE 5430 4367)
Maireana cheelii - Chariot Wheels
Pimelea spinescens subsp. *spinescens* - Spiny Rice-flower
Westringia crassifolia - Whipstick Westringia

Jenni Collier (NCCMA 5470 6940)
Ballantinia antipoda - Southern Shepherds Purse
Dianella amoena - Matted Flax-lily
Grevillea floripendula - Ben Major Grevillea
Pimelea spinescens subsp. *spinescens* - Spiny Rice-flower (Castlemaine populations)

North Central CMA project officer Jenni Collier is working in conjunction with DSE project officers under the same principals of recovery plan action implementation. NCCMA has a range of projects that focus on either improving riparian zones or improving the native biodiversity across the landscape. The principal of protecting and enhancing native vegetation underpins these projects. However, the projects are not species specific in the way that the RCIP funded Threatened Species program is.

With so many state threatened species in our region, it is obvious that DSE staff cannot implement all required recovery actions. Deanna mentioned in this context the 'Botanic Guardians' grant scheme which was established by DSE in 1992. The scheme encourages and supports community groups to carry out local conservation projects. Statewide, there is $60 000 dollars available and individual grants can be applied for up to $3000 dollars. At the completion of the project, a brief report is required, a statement of how the money was spent and some photos to support the project.



Some examples are the.Guildford Landcare Group 'Protection of *Pimelea spinescens*, *Comesperma polygoides* & *Dianella amoena*', Australian Native Orchid Society (Vic. Group) 'Protection of *Pterostylis despectans*', Adrian & Myra Morton 'Protection and monitoring of threatened orchids in the NW region' and Campaspe Golf Club 'Protection of *Cullen parvum*'.

Deanna then went on to talk about projects which would benefit from cooperation with members of the Bendigo field naturalists:
* Flora inventories of local Cemetery reserves. The number refers to the number of cemeteries in each municipality:
Bendigo (18), Buloke (5), Campaspe (9), Central Goldfields(13), Gannawarra (10), Loddon (22).
* *Lepidium pseudopapillosum* (Erect Peppercress) A population viability analysis (permanently monitoring individual plants to measure mortality, recruitment etc.
* *Callitriche cyclocarpa* (Western Water-starwort) searching - Gunbower SF. We are very keen for someone with good botanical knowledge to pick this project up. This is a Nationally threatened species that missed out on funding this year. It would involve liaising with the Melb. herbarium and DSE & our forests section. Searching past records and confirming its existence.
* Post fire monitoring in Hunter Flora Reserve (west of Elmore).
If any member is interested in undertaking any of these projects please contact Deanna Marshall for more information

I have written up this talk without having actually attended on the night (pretty good isn't it?), so I may not have got the emphasis right that Deanna tried to get across. Thanks to Deanna for making the power point slides available to me and commenting on my draft, to summarise this message for other members who have missed the talk and thanks to Rod for thinking about doing it this way. As 'threatened flora' is always one of the essay topics in my subject 'Plant Ecology' I really wished I had been there in person. It is a topic close to my heart!

The Translocation of Threatened Plants

a workshop presented by the Australian Network for Plant Conservation

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Translocation is one of the many tools available to assist in conserving threatened plant species. It involves the deliberate transfer of plants or regenerative plant material from one place to another. Translocation can be used to enhance existing populations; reintroduce a species to a site where it formerly occurred, but where it is now extinct; and to introduce a species to a site where it hasn't been recorded previously.

Have you been involved in, or would you like to be involved in, the planning, approval or implementation of a translocation project for threatened flora?

Questions to be addressed include:
- What is translocation?
- When is it appropriate to use translocation as a tool to conserve threatened species?
- What needs to be done when planning a translocation program?
- How should a translocation program be implemented?
- What ongoing management and evaluation is required?
- Where can I get more information?

Friday 24th September 2004
Department of Sustainability and Environment, Epsom.
Registration starst at 8.30am and the program goes all day.

Places are limited. Registration closes September 10.
Network members $85, non-members $115.

For a copy of the program and the registration form, please contact Sabine Wilkens or Bill Holsworth (contact details on inside front cover).

An item is missing from the BFNC Library.
Has anybody seen or borrowed a poster on Spring in Bendigo?
There is no record of this being borrowed. Please contact Diana Collier or Jane Cleary if you know where this poster is
(contact details on inside front cover)

Opportunity to contribute to plans for education/interpretation and tourism facilities for Greater Bendigo Box Ironbark National Park

The year before last a working group on which the Field Naturalists were represented by Barbara Pelzcynska prepared a report which described some themes appropriate for presenting the Greater Bendigo National Park to the public. A Steering Committee comprising leaders from the Council, the NCCMA, Parks Victoria, DSE and the University accepted this report and commissioned the appointment of a consultant through Parks Victoria as project leader. The Victorian Government funded ($25,000) the appointment of the consultant to review the type of facilities which might be suitable and to develop a draft proposal identifying three options for consideration by the steering committee.
The consultant is Dr Ric Thwaites and Dr.Rosemary Black involved in ecotourism courses and research at Charles Sturt University. The study will be completed by November and the consultants are interested in consulting with relevant stakeholder groups.
I have been asked to collate a list of people who the consultants could contact in order to help develop and check three options. Please note the emphasis is not on the storey (the themes), but on how the story is to be told. One of the restrictions is that once the facilities are established the operation of the facilities should as far as possible be self funding.

Rex McKenzie. (Ph/fax 54441873)

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2. Easy and Automatic - direct debits from your credit card make donating simple.

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4. Efficient - when you pledge you immediately provide support on which we can count. The certainty you provide allows campaigners to plan ahead. It also reduces EV's postage, stationary and administration costs.

5. Involvement - As a GRF you are welcome to get involved with forums, seminars and any campaigns which interest you.

To join of for more information call us on 9341 8100 or visit our website at www.envict.org.au

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Platypus gone from the Avoca River?

Posted by: nc landcarelinks via Rod Orr

Editor's note: Dr Melody Serena was the speaker for the June General Meeting of the BFNC (see July Whirrakee) so this is a follow up on the topic. This article is followed by some more positive personal observations from another local river, the Loddon, by Keith Graham.

Platypus may have disappeared from the Avoca River in just the last few decades, according to Dr Melody Serena of the Australian Platypus Conservancy.

She announced this finding after assessing results from the community-based Platypus Care program that has collected records of platypus sightings for the past 18 months, in partnership with the North Central Catchment Management Authority in this region.

Melody said that no recent reports of platypus sightings had been received from the Avoca River in the first year of Platypus Care. As a result, we recently made a special effort to interview longtime landowners, especially in the upper catchment from Amphitheatre to Natte Yallock.

The story which has emerged - based in part on stories passed down from earlier generations - is that platypus were quite common in some parts of the upper catchment until about the First World War. Platypus are reported to have declined after about 1920, but the animals continued to be seen quite regularly in some spots around Amphitheatre until the early 1940s, with few or no sightings made after about 1970.

Several landowners have suggested that erosion played a key role in the decline of platypus in the upper catchment. Specifically, rabbits are said to have increased to plague proportions around the time of the First World War, triggering massive erosion. Most of the resulting sand and sediment ended up in the river, filling the deeper holes which platypus need to survive - particularly during times of drought.

Ken Coates, Avoca/Avon-Richardson Implementation Committee Chair with the North Central CMA said that the farming community is to be commended for the extent of works they have undertaken in conjunction with the North Central CMA to improve water quality and bank stability along the entire Avoca River.

We hope that at least a few platypus still occur somewhere along the Avoca, he said. If not, improving the river environment so the animals can eventually be reintroduced to the region may still be a reasonable and challenging long-term conservation goal.

Melody stressed that the Conservancy is keen to add to the growing body of knowledge about the history of platypus along the Avoca. She urges anyone with information about the animals to pass it on so it can be recorded as part of the region, natural heritage. All such records are maintained in a confidential database. Melody can be contacted either by phone during normal work hours on ph: 9716 1626 or by email: platypus@vicnet.net.au.

Platypus of the Loddon
by Keith Graham

At a recent meeting of the Field Nats, the guest speaker gave an interesting talk on platypus and their distribution but her records for the Loddon were very limited.
I can remember the thrill hen I first saw a platypus in the Laanecoorie Weir about 1940 as we never saw any in the river between newbridge and bridgewater. About this time there was a report that platypus were in grave danger of extinction and David Fleay of the Healesville Sanctuary began attempts to rear them in captivity.
Laanecoorie Reservoir was built in the 1890s to service towns as far north as Kerang but even then, the river stopped running in dry years and was reduced to water holes. Cairn Curran and Tulleroop Reservoirs were built 1955-60 giving the river regular summer flows.
It was about this time I made my first sighting in the river yet now seeing one barely raises an eyebrow. One wet year some 8-9 years ago sightings were made in both the Bul-a-bul and Kangderaa Creeks suggesting young animals were in search of new territory.
As we change the environment, some of our native animals are losers but it would seem the platypus of the Loddon are one of the fortunate ones.

'Productive Native Grasslands Workshop and Field Day'.

Date: Friday 17th September, 2004
Location: Bamawm Extension Town Hall. Corner of Bamawm Rd and Echuca - Mitiamo Rd.
(please contact Aaron Gay if you need a map)

An opportunity to find out more about native grasslands and their management.
Includes:
- Presentation from Darryl Cluff on the productive management of native grasslands.
- Launch of Northern Plains Conservation Management Network (CMN) Project.
- Field trip to visit two native grasslands and a discussion on their management.

Guest speaker:
Darryl Cluff from 'Stipa'. Darryl Cluff is a fourth generation farmer from Gulgong in the Central West of NSW. Darryl's tenure of the property began in 1972. It was by then scarred and battle-weary following three generations of "Farming and Grazing". A further twelve years of "Farming and Grazing" were to follow, but it became increasingly obvious that if he was to continue farming, the land degradation and economic issues needed to be addressed.

Property development included gully fill and graded banks to stabilise eroded areas, total property re-fencing along or at right angles to the contour and the planting of 10 000 trees and shrubs. The property won the 1997 Regional Ibis Award for the integration of wildlife conservation and sustainable land management.

Darryl instigated the formation of Stipa Native Grasses Assn. Inc. To promote the use of native grasses in the Central West of NSW and has been employed by the Association since 1998. The Association now has Australia-wide membership and has probably brought the issue of native pasture management from relative obscurity into the limelight. Darryl's main interest is in the development of a land management system that is not only sustainable, but reverses the land degradation. The rationale of the technique is described in his recently published book, 'Farming Without Farming'.

RSVP (for catering purposes) to Julie Bennett 5448 7124 by 12th September.

For enquiries please contact Aaron Gay
Riverina Biodiversity Officer, NCCMA and DSE. Tel: (03) 5430 4323
Email: Aaron.Gay@dse.vic.gov.au

A new mammal species
from 'The Advertiser', via Maurie Lewis

Did you know that new mammal species are still being discovered?
'The Advertiser' on May 29 (page 20) had an article describing a new species of mammals discovered in a Philippine mountain that is not found anywhere else on the planet. The new species is mouse-like, weighs about 15 gram, has an 8cm long body, a 10cm long tail and a very large head with heavily muscled jaws and very prominent whiskers.

And...
Does anybody know what a katydid is?

WILDFLOWER SHOW

PRESENTED BY THE BENDIGO FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB & BENDIGO NATIVE PLANT GROUP AS PART OF THE "SPRING IN THE BENDIGO BUSH" PROGRAM

ENTRY $2 ADULTS
CHILDREN FREE

SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB ROOMS
OLD HIGH ST. GOLDEN SQUARE

10 am - 4pm
18 & 19 SEPTEMBER

Speaker Syllabus for the Remainder of 2004:

September 8	AGM Speaker: Chris Sawyer (see page 3 for details)
October 13	Speaker: Phil Dyson "The hidden mysteries of the Kamarooka'
November 10	Speaker: Dan Harley 'Leadbeaters Possum in a Swamp'
December 8	Christmas Dinner (this starts at 6.30 usually) Speaker: Gerry Gill 'Interpreting the Regional Landscape'.

South East Australian Naturalists' Association Spring Camp
Friday 29 Oct - Tuesday 2 Nov 2004

Little Desert Nature Lodge

South East Australian Naturalists' Association invites you to the South East Australian Naturalists' Association Spring Camp based at Little Desert Nature Lodge. Little Desert Nature Lodge is 16km south of Nihill on the Nihill-Harrow Road (Vicroads 25 C9).

The Little Desert National Park has a rainfall range of 400mm per year in the north-east to 600mm in the south-west. The variation in soil types causes marked differences in vegetation. It is a desert in name only - many species of plants and animals have succeeded, on poor soils, with little water, in creating a landscape where survival depends on maintaining a delicate balance of natural forces. In spring the park is full of wildflowers which attract a wide range of birds.
Guest speakers are planned for Saturday and Monday evening.
On Saturday, Sunday and Monday, a variery of excursions are planned to various parts of the Little Desert National Park and conservation reserves in the region. These are led by staff of the Little Desert Nature Lodge, local and visiting naturalists.
Some excursions must be booked (Four-wheel Drive Tour $53, Malleefowl Sanctuary $25, Malleefowl Aviary $5.50. Other excursion (no costs involved) planned include visits to Glenlee Nature Reserve, Snape Reserve, Horseshoe Bend, Mallee Dam Reserve, Elgin Swamp, Tooan

Bookings must be received by 30th August. Registration fee is $20. Please phone Sabine Wilkens (54432797) for a copy of the booking form and details of the accommodation arrangements.
Contact: John Gregurke (53394993).

SEANA continued...

2006 ANN Get-Together

We have received the first circular for the **2006 Australian Naturalists' Network Get-Together.** This will be hosted by SEANA and held in the Australian High Country from 16th January to 2nd February 2006. This is the fourth of the ANN get-togethers (the third one is being held in Perth in September/October this year).
Due to the pressure on accommodation during this time of year in the High Country, SEANA is looking for anybody who firmly knows that they will attending this event. If not enough people show interest at this stage, the accommodation cannot be booked.

Some elements of the program are already in place (like the decision to use coaches rather than participants' cars) and if you want details about this please contact Sabine Wilkens or Bill Holsworth (contact details are on the inside front cover).
If you are interested in responding at this stage, we also have copies of the response sheet required. This, along with a 50 dollar deposit needs to be sent off as soon as possible. The deposit money will be refunded should the get-together not go ahead due to lack of numbers.
It is estimated that the total cost will be about 1500 dollars for the 17 days (based on previous camps).

Diary

The General, Bird Observers Group and Fauna Study Group meetings are held at the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square, unless otherwise indicated.

General Meetings

Wednesday, September 8 7.30pm
Annual General Meeting. If there is a speaker, it will be a surprise. Come along and find out.

Bird Observers Group Excursions

Sun 3rd October
WHIPSTICK/KAMAROOKA AREA

Meet 8.30 Cnr. Napier St (Midland Hwy) and Howard St (Northern side) Epsom.
Contact- Pam + John Land, ph. 5436 1511

Note: The Whipstick- Kamarooka area is noted for the number and diversity of bird species which might be recorded at any time of year. This most southern patch of mallee forest provides the overlap between the extent of range that many northern and or southern species of birds may venture.
On a good morning (winter) it is not uncommon to record up to 50 species of birds, including at least 13 different species of honeyeaters.
Bring: Suitable clothing and footwear for weather conditions, morning tea drink and snack, lunch optional.
Car-pooling: Can be organized at the meeting point
Beginners to birding most welcome.

Fauna Group

This group meets (in the clubrooms) on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm.

Wednesday, August 25 7.30pm
Topic for discussion to be advised.

Spring in the Bendigo Bush

For this year, this program is again coordinated by the Discovery Centre with input from the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club and Parks Victoria. If anybody wants to get involved, please contact our club secretary Bill Holsworth (54434063) or the Discovery Centre (54444400).

As part of this event BFNC in conjunction with the Society for Growing Native Plants, we will run the Bendigo Wildflower Show on the weekend of September 18/19.
Volunteers are still needed. Please contact Bill Holsworth (54434063) if you can help.

An item is missing from the BFNC Library.

Has anybody seen or borrowed a poster on Spring in Bendigo?
There is no record of this being borrowed. Please contact Diana Collier or Jane Cleary if you know where this poster is
(contact details on inside front cover)

Wildlife Rescue & Information Network Inc.

W.R.I.N. is an organisation dedicated to the care of orphaned, sick or injured native animals.
It is fully endorsed by the Dept of Natural Resources and Environment.
Please call our Emergency Number for Help for Fauna in Need. Phone: 0419 356433.

BFNC Garden Working Bee

This year we need regular garden working bees and they are usually held on the Saturday before each general meeting, at 9am. With the recent rains maintenance requirements have increased and weeds will start to grow despite the cold.
For this month only, in order to avoid clashing with the launch of 'Spring in the Bendigo Bush

The next working bee will be on **Saturday 11th September, 9am,** that is the Saturday after the general meeting.

All welcome